

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:**

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

1-19. (canceled)

20. (currently amended) A method of managing SMS messages, comprising:

identifying an SMS message for a message receiver;

determining whether the message receiver has set up at least one alternative handling instruction for SMS messages;

if it is determined that the message receiver has set up an alternative handling instruction for SMS messages, then executing the alternative handling instruction, wherein the set up at least one alternative handling instruction includes a saving instruction for saving SMS messages in a personalized folder for the message receiver; ~~and~~

setting up a plurality of alternative handling instructions for the message receiver; and

using a content of the SMS message to select the appropriate alternative handling instruction from the plurality of alternative handling instructions;

wherein the SMS messages and the at least one alternative handling instruction are managed in an SMS Center ("SMSC") in a network.

21. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction additionally includes at least one of: a filtering instruction for filtering SMS messages identified for the message receiver according to a predetermined criteria; a forwarding instruction for forwarding an SMS message received by the message receiver to at least one additional address; and a deletion instruction for deleting SMS messages according to a predetermined criteria.

22. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction includes a filtering instruction specifying a predetermined criteria by which SMS messages are to be rejected by the message receiver.

23. (previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein said filtering instruction rejects SMS messages that are older than a predetermined amount of time.

24. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction includes a forwarding instruction for forwarding a received SMS message to a plurality of different addresses.

25. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the personalized folder is a folder identified for saving urgent SMS messages.

26. (previously presented) The method of claim 21, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction includes a deletion instruction for deleting undelivered SMS messages.

27. (previously presented) The method of claim 26, wherein undelivered SMS messages are deleted after expiration of a predetermined amount of time.

28. (canceled).

29. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction is set up via a form on a Web-based provisioning interface.

30. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction is set up via an SMS message.

31. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising determining whether the message receiver has set up at least one AutoReply Message for the message receiver.

32. (previously presented) The method of claim 30, wherein there are a plurality of AutoReply Messages set up for the message receiver, and wherein the SMS message is used as a key to select an appropriate AutoReply Message.

33. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein a content of the SMS message is used as the key to select the appropriate AutoReply Message from the plurality of AutoReply Messages.

34. (previously presented) The method of claim 31, wherein the appropriate AutoReply Message is selected in accordance with whether the SMS message is one of a Mobile-Originated SMS message and a machine originated SMS message.

35. (currently amended) A system for managing SMS messages, comprising:

a module for identifying an SMS message for a message receiver; and

a module for determining whether the message receiver has set up at least one alternative handling instruction for SMS messages; and if it is determined that the message receiver has set up an alternative handling instruction for SMS messages, then executing the alternative handling instruction, wherein the set up at least one alternative handling instruction includes a saving instruction for saving SMS messages in a personalized folder for the message receiver, and if there are a plurality of alternative handling instructions set up for the message receiver, using a content of the SMS message to select the appropriate alternative handling instruction from the plurality of alternative handling instructions; and

wherein the SMS messages and at least one alternative handling instruction are managed in an SMS Center ("SMSC") in a network.

36. (previously presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction additionally includes at least one of: a filtering instruction for filtering SMS messages identified for the message receiver according to a predetermined criteria; a forwarding instruction for forwarding an SMS message received by the message receiver to at least one additional address; and a deletion instruction for deleting SMS messages according to a predetermined criteria.

37. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction includes a filtering instruction specifying a predetermined criteria by which SMS messages are to be rejected by the message receiver.

38. (previously presented) The system of claim 37, wherein said filtering instruction rejects SMS messages that are older than a predetermined amount of time.

39. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction includes a forwarding instruction for forwarding a received SMS message to a plurality of different addresses.

40. (previously presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the personalized folder is a folder identified for saving urgent SMS messages.

41. (previously presented) The system of claim 36, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction includes a deletion instruction for deleting undelivered SMS messages.

42. (previously presented) The system of claim 41, wherein undelivered SMS messages are deleted after expiration of a predetermined amount of time.

43. (canceled).

44. (previously presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction is set up via a form on a Web-based provisioning interface.

45. (previously presented) The system of claim 35, wherein the at least one alternative handling instruction is set up via an SMS message transmitted from a mobile communication device.

46. (previously presented) The system of claim 35, further comprising a module for determining whether the message receiver has set up at least one AutoReply Message for the message receiver.

47. (previously presented) The system of claim 46, wherein there are a plurality of AutoReply Messages set up for the message receiver, and wherein the SMS message is used as a key to select an appropriate AutoReply Message from the plurality of AutoReply Messages.

48. (previously presented) The system of claim 47, wherein a content of the SMS message is used as the key to select the appropriate AutoReply Message from the plurality of AutoReply Messages.

49. (previously presented) The system of claim 47, wherein the appropriate AutoReply Message is selected in accordance with whether the SMS message is one of a Mobile-Originated SMS message and a machine originated SMS message.

50. (canceled).

51. (canceled).

52. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising setting up the at least one alternative handling instruction on an SMS Automatic Handling Server ("SAHS") configured in the network.

53. (previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising setting up an automated response for an incoming SMS message using an Auto-Reply Message Server ("ARMS") configured in the network.

54. (previously presented) The system of claim 35, further comprising an SMS Automatic Handling Server ("SAHS") configured in the network for setting up the at least one alternative handling instruction.

55. (previously presented) The system of claim 35, further comprising an Auto-Reply Message Server (“ARMS”) configured in the network for setting up an automated response for an incoming SMS message.